KODANSHA COMICS

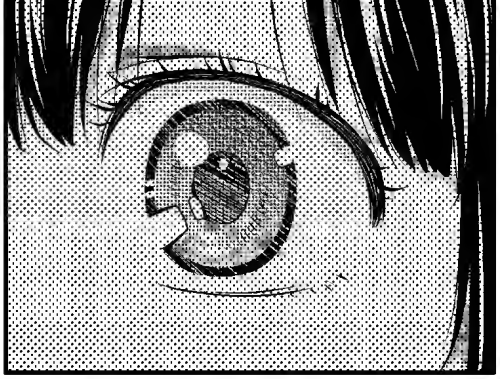
CHAPTER 182

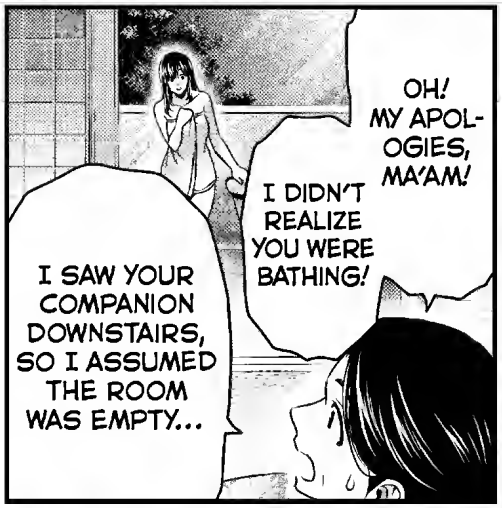
KEI SASUGA

DOME X GIRL

CHAPTER 182: PERPETUAL ANXIETY

KEI SASUGA



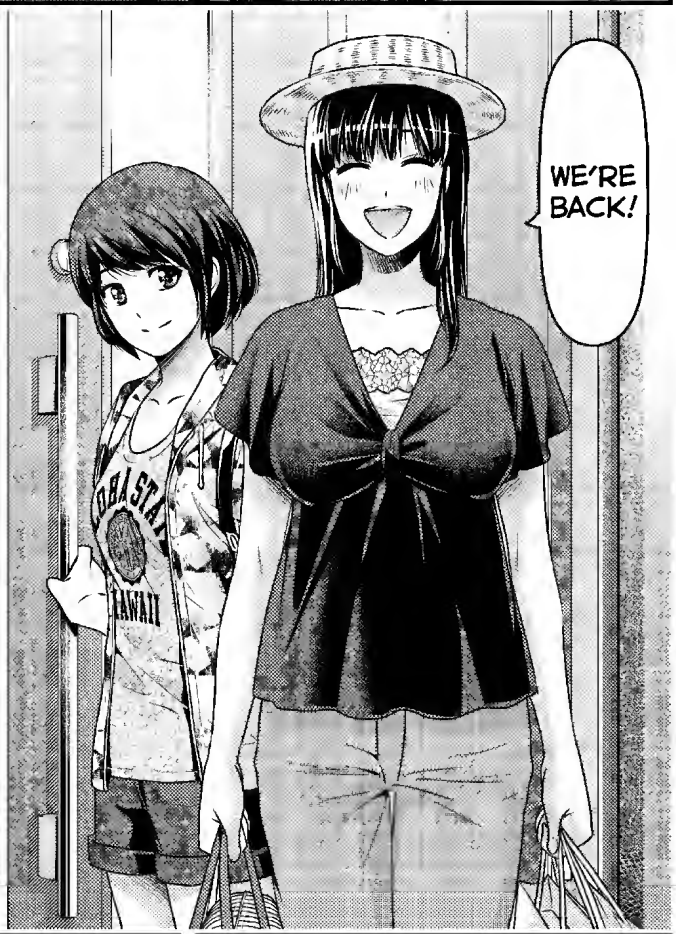

I SAW YOUR COMPANION DOWNSTAIRS, SO I ASSUMED THE ROOM WAS EMPTY...
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE BATHING!
OH! MY APOL-OGIES, MA'AM!

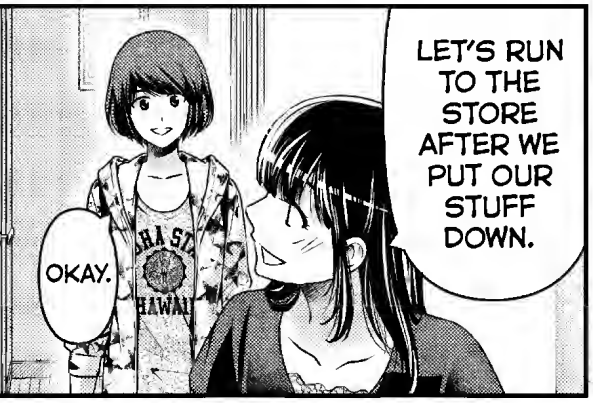
THERE WE GO...

DO YOU MIND IF I LAY OUT THE FUTONS?
I'M VERY SORRY FOR THE INTRU-SION.
DON'T MIND ME.
OH ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

GUESS I WAS WORRY-ING TOO MUCH.
THAT'S NO GOOD.

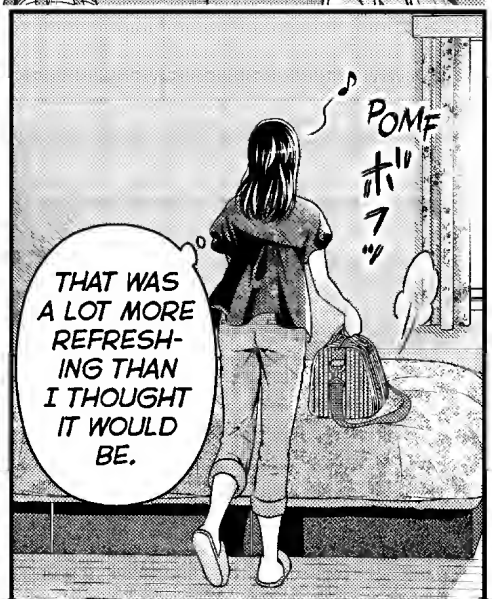
HUH... GUESS NO ONE'S HOME YET.
MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE PICKED UP GROCERIES ON THE WAY BACK.


WE'RE BACK!

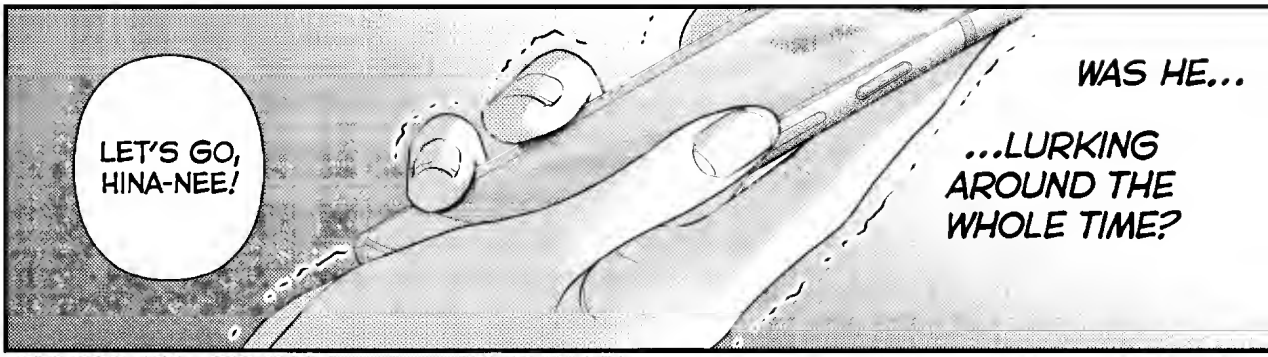

LET'S RUN TO THE STORE AFTER WE PUT OUR STUFF DOWN.
OKAY.

JUST A SEC.

TIME TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING AGAIN TOMORROW.
DING
ピロン
KUSATSU HOT SPRINGS

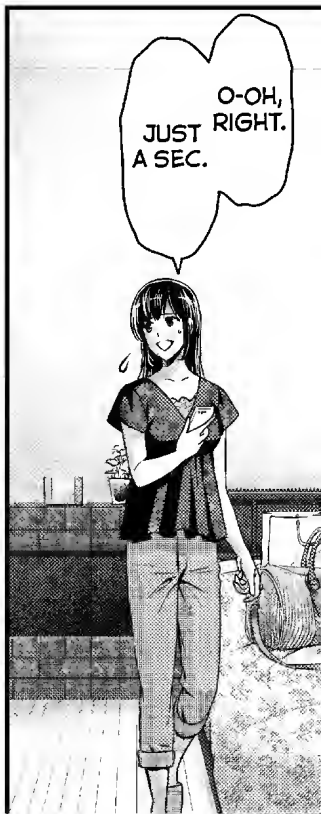

POMF
ポフッ
THAT WAS A LOT MORE REFRESHING THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.

種部 健悟
KENGO TANABE
Did you enjoy your trip with your little sister?
If you're a fan of hot springs, I know a great place. I'd love to take you there sometime.


LET'S GO, HINA-NEE!
WAS HE...
...LURKING AROUND THE WHOLE TIME?

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

FOR NOW, LET'S TALK TO THE MANAGE-MENT.
I WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL THINGS BLEW OVER...


O-OH, RIGHT.
JUST A SEC.

WHOA!
SPSH
HERE IT COMES!
WHISH
HEY! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO CATCH THEM LIKE THIS?!
I TOLD YOU THAT DOING FLOWING NOODLES ON THE STAIRS WOULDN'T WORK!
THE ANGLE'S TOO STEEP!
YOU'RE JUST NOT TRYING HARD ENOUGH! SHOW SOME SPIRIT!
C'MON! HERE COMES THE NEXT BATCH!
WHISH
BLERF!
MAN... HOW'D I GET DRAGGED INTO THIS?
I COULD BE WORK-ING ON MY MANUSCRIPT RIGHT NOW...

OH, I'M SORRY. REMIND ME WHO KEEPS SHARING THE LOVE WHENEVER HE GETS A LOAD OF FRESH VEGGIES AND RICE AGAIN?
EH, HEH, HEH.
YES, AND IT'S BEEN A HUGE HELP. I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
THIS KINDA THING'S MORE FUN IN A GROUP!
NOW QUIT COMPLAINING, GIRD YOUR LOINS, AND SNATCH UP THOSE NOODLES!
SPLISH
BWAH!
チョロ DRIP
チョロ DRIP
HMM. GUESS BOILED DUMPLINGS WERE ALL COULD DO AT THAT SPEED.
SOAKED しょり…
THERE WAS NO WAY WE WERE GONNA CATCH QUAIL EGGS AND KONJAC JELLY.
DON'T JUST THROW WHATEVER YOU HAVE ON HAND DOWN THE CHUTE.
AH, C'MON. DON'T YOU WANNA MAKE SOME LAST-MINUTE MEMORIES BEFORE SUMMER ENDS?
YOU GUYS PROBABLY HAD A LAME BREAK, ANYWAY, RIGHT?
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.

I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT.
I ENDED UP WORKING ALL BREAK.
AND HERE I THOUGHT THEY'D BASICALLY HAND ME A BOYFRIEND WHEN I ENTERED MEIJI U.
ANYONE KNOW A HOTTIE WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE THEY CAN INTRODUCE ME TO?
...IF YOU THINK BRAINS ARE HOT, I KNOW SOMEONE.
FOR REAL?! HOOK ME UP!
I THINK HE'S A HOTTIE, ANYWAY.
I...REALLY DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU SAY THAT...
I HAD A PRETTY GOOD SUMMER OVERALL. I WENT TO THE BEACH AND EVERYTHING.
ズゾゾッ SLURP
I EVEN MADE PLANS TO RELEASE A BOOK OF SHORT STORIES ...
WHAT? SERIOUSLY?!
THAT'S GREAT!
GO OUT WITH ME!
NOT HAPPENING.
HAVE THIS FISH SAUSAGE TO CELEBRATE!
RECEIVE MY BLESSING, CHILD!
WHISH
CAN'T YOU JUST HAND IT TO ME?!
I SEE. SO, THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ITCHING TO GET BACK TO WRITING.
WHAT'S YOUR NEW STORY GONNA BE ABOUT?
I'M THINKING SUSPENSE.
HMM. I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY?
SOUNDS HEAVY...

NO ONE'S BORN "GOOD" OR "EVIL."
PEOPLE ARE MOLDED BY THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND CIRCUM-STANCES, RIGHT? THEY CAN GO EITHER WAY.
NO KID *WANTS* TO GROW UP TO BE THE BAD GUY THEY READ ABOUT OR SEE ON TV.
SO, I'M CURIOUS WHAT EXACTLY GOES THROUGH SOMEONE'S HEAD AT THE MOMENT THEY LOSE THEIR SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG.
DO THEY HAVE SOME SORT OF INNATE DESIRE TO DO BAD THINGS?
SOME SENSE OF MORALITY THAT COMPLETELY CLASHES WITH WHAT THE GENERAL POP-ULATION WOULD CONSIDER "WRONG"?
I'D LIKE TO WRITE SOMETHING THAT DELVES INTO THAT PSYCHOLOGY.
WHAT?! THAT SOUNDS AWE-SOME!
HURRY UP AND FINISH IT SO I CAN READ IT!
WHEN'S YOUR BOOK COMING OUT?!
THAT'S WHY I WAS SAYING I DON'T REALLY HAVE TIME FOR FLOWING NOODLES...
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA. THAT'S ANOTHER THING ENTIRELY.
HOW SO?!

社長室
PRESIDENT'S ROOM

EX-
CUSE
ME,
SIR.
...YES?
IT IS
REGARDING
ONE OF OUR
EMPLOYEES.
TANABE-
SAMA,
I PRE-
SUME?
!
MAY
I HAVE A
MOMENT
OF YOUR
TIME?

WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT YOU ARE STALKING ONE OF THE RECEPTIONISTS, TACHIBANA...
...AND IT APPEARS SHE FEARS FOR HER SAFETY.
STALKING? EXCUSE ME?
I'M JUST HERE FOR WORK...
MULTIPLE STAFF MEMBERS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT YOU HAVE NEVER MET WITH ANYONE ON YOUR NUMEROUS VISITS TO OUR HOTEL.
AS EMPLOYERS,
WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF OUR EMPLOYEES.
WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR ACTIONS ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW.
IF YOU REFUSE TO DESIST THIS CONDUCT, THEN WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ALERT THE AUTHORITIES.
AS SUCH ...
...I AM AFRAID...
...YOU ARE NO LONGER WELCOME AT OUR ESTABLISHMENT.
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
STALKING?
FEARS FOR HER SAFETY?
SHE STILL DOESN'T GET IT, DOES SHE?

SHE HAS NO IDEA...
...HOW MUCH SHE NEEDS A MAN LIKE ME!
HELLO.
HEY, THERE!
DO YOU HAVE THE EVENING SHIFT, TOO, TACHIBANA-CHAN?
YES.

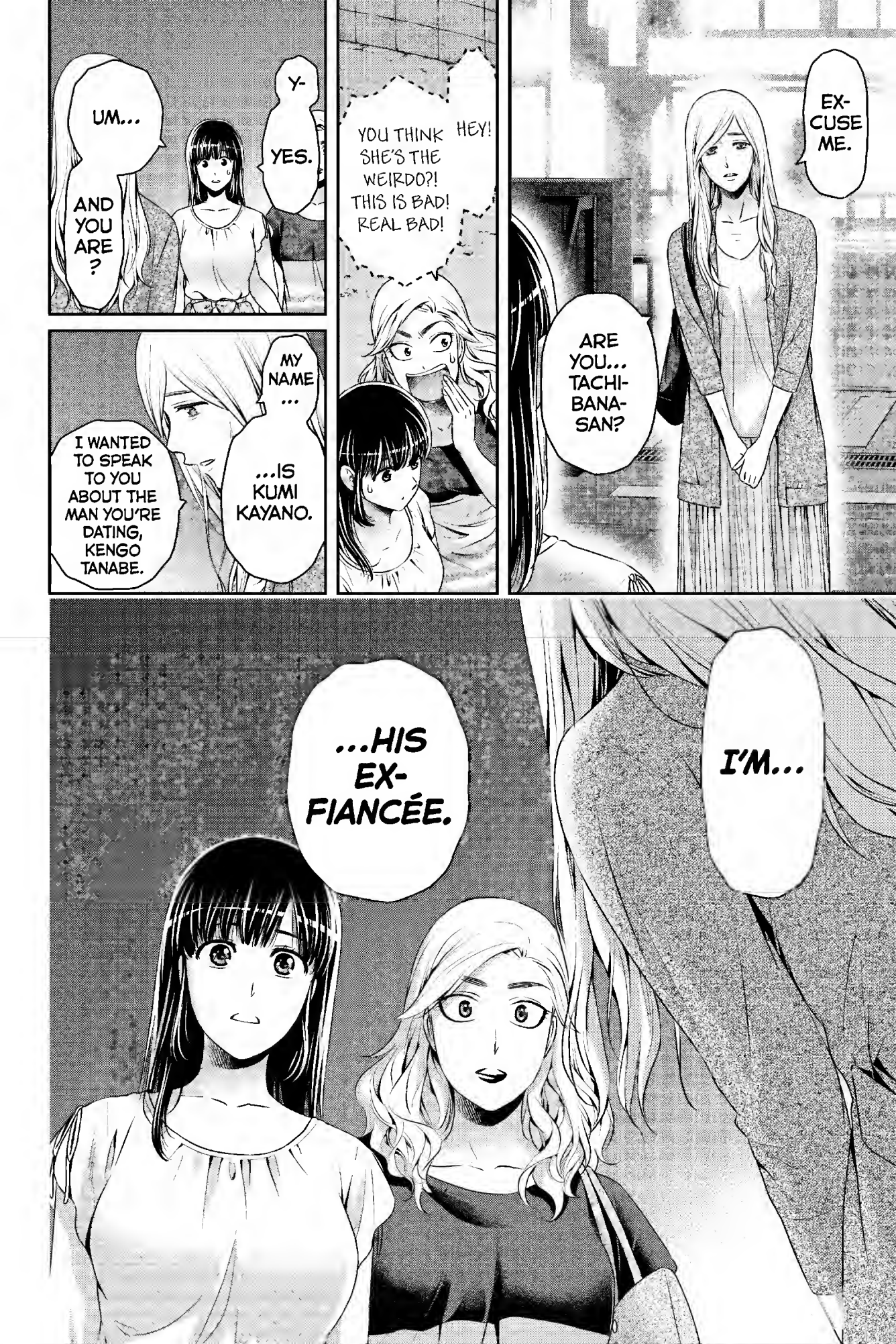
THEY BANNED YOUR CREEPER FROM THE HOTEL.
!
OH, YEAH. DID THE MANAGER TELL YOU?
ABOUT YESTER-DAY.
HUH ?
I... SEE.
PEOPLE WHO DO STUFF LIKE THAT CAN'T LOOK AT THEMSELVES OBJECTIVELY,
BUT I HEAR A LOT OF THE TIME, THEY REALIZE WHAT THEY'RE DOING AND BACK OFF WHEN THEY'RE CONFRONTED.
AND... WHAT DID HE DO?
APPAR-ENTLY, HE LEFT QUIETLY AND THAT WAS THAT.
HEY, EVERY-ONE!
YES, YOU'VE REACHED THE SUN LEAF HOTEL.
TRRR
YES.
MY APOL-OGIES, SIR.
GUESS YOU CAN RELAX FOR NOW, HUH?
Tachibana
HM?
BUSY DAY, HUH?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ?
OH... HELLO, YOU TWO.
WELL, YOU COULD SAY THAT...

WE'VE BEEN GETTING NONSTOP COMPLAINTS AND SILENT CALLS ALL AFTERNOON.
...!
COM-PLAINTS?
YES... ALL OF THE CALLS HAVE BEEN FROM WITHHELD NUMBERS OR PAY PHONES.
JUDGING FROM THE VOICES, IT SEEMS TO BE A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE CALLING OVER AND OVER.
MOST OF THE COMPLAINTS ARE ABOUT CUSTOMER SERVICE...
...AND ALL OF THEM ARE TOTALLY GROUNDLESS ACCUSA-TIONS.
THEY KEEP SAYING, "FIRE THE RECEP-TIONIST!"
APPAR-ENTLY, SOME-TIMES THEY NAME SOME-ONE.
THE PRESIDENT TOLD US TO "STAY CALM AND RESOLUTE,"
BUT HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO WORK LIKE THIS?

TACHI-BANA-SAN...
DID YOU DO SOMETHING?
YUP. ALL THERE.
HOW MANY MEN DID YOU USE?
FIVE.
WE AGREED ON THREE DAYS, BUT IF SHIT GETS DICEY, WE'RE OUT, GOT IT?
THAT'S FINE.
I DON'T REALLY CARE AS LONG AS YOU PAY, BUT I'M JUST CURIOUS.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS?
GOT SOME-THING AGAINST A GIRL WHO WORKS THERE?

IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT.
I CAN'T GO SEE HER AT THAT HOTEL ANYMORE ...
...SO IT'S MUCH QUICKER TO JUST MAKE HER QUIT.
BESIDES, IF SHE LOSES HER JOB,
THEN SHE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RELY ON ME.
UH... HUH.
ENOUGH! I'M WALKING YOU TO THE STATION NEAR YOUR HOUSE AND THAT'S THAT!
I CAN'T ASK YOU TO DO THAT... YOU LIVE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, SUSUKINO-SAN.

NO BUTS!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP TONIGHT IF I DON'T DO THIS.
I GUESS SHE CAME TO THE FRONT DESK WHILE WE WERE ON BREAK.
SHE ASKED, "IS TACHIBANA-SAN HERE?"
AND WHEN THE RECEPTIONIST ASKED IF SHE KNEW YOU,
SHE JUST SAID, "NO, I DON'T, BUT..." AND SHUFFLED OFF ALL SUSPICIOUSLY.
RING ANY BELLS?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S THE DEAL?!
ARE YOU A TROUBLE MAGNET OR WHAT, TACHIBANA-SAN?!
UM...
I SWEAR, WHAT KIND OF ASSHOLE GOES THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE TO HARASS SOMEONE?
NOT TO MENTION HE EVEN SENT SOME WEIRD CHICK OVER.
HM?
WEIRD CHICK?
IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD HOP A CAB HOME,
BUT YOUR PLACE IS JUST A LIIITTLE TOO FAR AWAY.
YEAH...
AND IT'S RUSH HOUR, SO THERE'S A PREMIUM.


EX-CUSE ME.
ARE YOU... TACHI-BANA-SAN?
HEY!
YOU THINK SHE'S THE WEIRDO?! THIS IS BAD! REAL BAD!
Y-
YES.
UM...
AND YOU ARE ?
MY NAME ...
...IS KUMI KAYANO.
I WANTED TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE MAN YOU'RE DATING, KENGO TANABE.
I'M...
...HIS EX-FIANCÉE.